



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
New England District

696 Virginia Road  
Concord, MA 01742-2751

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**Date: 16 May 2000**

**Comment Period Ends: 16 June 2000**

**File Number: 200001106**

**In Reply Refer To:**

**Or by e-mail: Brian.E.Valiton @usace.army.mil**

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, 348 D Street, South Boston, Massachusetts, 02127, has requested a Corps of Engineers permit under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to construct a new 72" storm drainage outfall, including associated stone riprap, in Reserved Channel, Boston, Massachusetts, to accommodate storm drainage from the site of the new Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. The new storm drain line will run from the new Convention Center site along Summer Street to the outfall location. In conjunction with this outfall it will be necessary to dredge approx. 260 cu. yds. of material from an area of approx. 1012 sq. ft. in the Reserved Channel (with final disposal of the material in an appropriate upland site) to create an area where a stone riprap pad consisting of approx. 140 cu. yds. of dumped stone riprap, 3 large granite blocks and approx. 60 cu. yds. of bedding stone will be placed to prevent storm flows from scouring the harbor bottom. To install the outfall approx. 34 linear feet of existing stone seawall will have to be temporarily dismantled, the outfall constructed, and the stone seawall rebuilt around the outfall.

The project will remove existing CSO flows into the North Branch of the South Boston Interceptor hereby improving water quality in Boston Harbor

The dredging will impact approx. 1012 sq. ft. of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for a variety of Federally managed species. The area to be dredged is an intertidal mud flat that is littered with debris and receives discharges of sediment from four CSO's. The area is the upstream portion of the Reserved Channel off of Boston Harbor. Various mitigation measures are being proposed to minimize the impacts to any EFH. and to prevent adverse water quality impacts. The District Engineer has made a preliminary determination that the site-specific adverse effect will not be substantial. Further consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding EFH conservation recommendations is being conducted and will be concluded prior to the final decision.

This project is located on the USGS Boston South quadrangle sheet at UTM coordinates 4689680.00 N and 0332100.00 E.

In order to properly evaluate the proposal, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Brian Valiton at (978) 318-8166, (800) 343-4789 or (800) 362-4367, if calling from within Massachusetts.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining public comments when that is the best means for understanding a wide variety of concerns from a diverse segment of the public.

**SEE NEXT PAGE FOR  
DETAILS OF EVALUATION  
FACTORS**

**Karen K. Adams  
Chief, Permits & Enforcement Section  
Regulatory Branch**

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity in the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which may reasonably accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Where the activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of disposing it in ocean waters, the evaluation of the impact of the activity in the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act, and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 as amended.

Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that little likelihood exists for the proposed work to impinge upon properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, and no further consideration of the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, is necessary. This determination is based upon one or more of the following:

- a. The permit area has been extensively modified by previous work.
- b. The permit area has been recently created.
- c. The proposed activity is of limited nature and scope.
- d. Review of the latest published version of the National Register shows that no presence of registered properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are in the permit area or general vicinity.

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, the District Engineer is hereby requesting that the appropriate Federal Agency provide comments regarding the presence of and potential impacts to listed species or its critical habitat.

The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice.

The following authorizations have been applied for, or have been, or will be obtained:

- (X) Permit, License or Assent from State.
- (X) Permit from Local Wetland Agency or Conservation Commission.
- (X) Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

The States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island have approved Coastal Zone Management Programs. Where applicable the applicant states that any proposed activity will comply with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved Coastal Zone Management Program. By this Public Notice, we are requesting the State concurrence or objection to the applicant's consistency statement.

All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in an effort to reach an understanding.

**THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.**

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